What is the Point of Saving Endangered Species?

Class Copy

Please read the article and then answer the questions on your own piece of paper

1. What tone is the author taking in the 4th paragraph?
2. How much would it cost to preserve land animals?
3. What could we do with the money instead?
4. How many mass extinctions has there been in the past?
5. According to the article, are we in the middle of a mass extinction right now?
6. Why is preserving nature just for the beauty of it not a good enough reason? List 2 reasons.
7. What are practical reasons for saving nature? Be specific.
8. What are ecological services?
9. In 1997 Robert Costanz estimated that the biosphere provides services worth around $33 trillion a year. How much did the global economy in 1997 produce?
10. How do biodiversity and the economy relate to each other?
11. When does something have value? (see page 8).
12. How can one put a price on natural beauty?
13. How is saving one species, like the Mountain Gorilla, helpful on a broader range?
14. Trees do not only provide habitat for animals. What other ecological services do they provide?
15. Why are diverse ecosystems better than less diverse ecosystems?
16. On a separate piece of paper, draw a representation of the following quote from the last page: “It’s not “nature for itself”, because it’s explicitly about helping people. It’s also not quite “nature for people”, because it’s not just a matter of the direct goods that ecosystems offer us. Instead it’s about seeing human society and wild ecosystems as one inseparable whole.”

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